Special package for Mumbai

2616. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received number of representations/ suggestions regarding grant of special package for the development of Mumbai particularly during the recent monsoon havoc which has surpassed record of last century rains and ruined the city;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the concrete steps taken by Government especially after the recent aerial visit by the Prime Minister of the affected areas of Mumbai?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Central Government has released Rs. 1000 crore to the Government of Maharashtra towards relief necessitated by the recent floods in the State.

Shortage of Scientists in pure Sciences

2617. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI HARISH RAWAT :

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country is likely to face shortage of scientists in pure sciences;

(b) if so, the reasons for such shortage and what measures are being taken to reverse the trend;

(c) whether Government agree that the research facilities in pure sciences are lacking in the country;

(d) if so, the steps that are being taken to equip the laboratories; and

(e) the steps that are being taken to encourage scientists to build international academic and research linkages in pure sciences?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (e) Views have been expressed at various fora indicating that the country is likely to face shortage of scientists in basic sciences, as a result of the declining interest in science amongst the young students, lack of sufficient incentives etc. Taking note of these concerns, the Government in order to attract students and researchers and to improve the quality of research has taken various measures by introducing a set of new initiatives. These include programmes like 'Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Fellowships': targeted at post-graduate talented students, "CSIR Diamond Jubilee Technology Awards": for Innovators for developing technology of the highest benchmarks of competitiveness and exceilence and for inventions of school students, "Women Scientists Scheme": instituted to provide opportunities to women scientists, 'Swarnajayanti Fellowships': for outstanding young scientists, Postdoctoral fellowship in Biotechnology, Bioscience Awards for career development, 'Ramanna Fellowship': aimed to support performing scientists, Fund for improvement of infrastructure for S&T in Universities and Higher Educational institutions, etc. More recently Government has also announced two National Research Fellowships namely "Ramanujan Fellowships" to attract brilliant scientists from all over the world and "JC Bose Fellowships" to recognize active scientists who have proven outetanding track record. All these initiatives are aimed at providing encouragement to scientists. The Governments has also instituted several S&T programmes with other countries to build international academic and research linkages in pure sciences.

Schemes/projects from Uttar Pradesh

†2618. SHRI BHAGWATI SINGH: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Uttar Pradesh had sent some schemes/projects concerning science and technology to the Central Government seeking their approval in the year 2004;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the said schemes are likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes, Sir. Council of Science and Technology, UP, Department of Science and Technology, Government of Uttar Pradesh had sent some schemes/projects concerning science and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.